



Preliminary Amendment

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Title: Information Transfer Protocol System and Private Exchange

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In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 5 by replacing entire text.

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5. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1, further comprising a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining the information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the process, the first state dependent business information transfer message, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if an automated response is to be sent and if so determined:

- creates using the information from the information storage, the first state dependent transfer message, and the rule storage, a second state dependent information transfer message;
- sends the second state dependent information transfer message to the network;
- updates the information storage and the process state; and,
- completes the operation on the first state dependent information transfer message.

Please amend Claim 6 by replacing entire text

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6. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1 and an enterprise system where both are connected by a network and the information

transfer protocol system further comprising a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining the information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the process, the first state dependent business information transfer message, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if a enterprise systems message is to be sent and if so determined,

- creates using the information from the information storage, the first state dependent transfer message, and the rule storage, an enterprise systems message
- sends the enterprise systems message to the enterprise system.
- updates the information storage and the process state;

Please amend claim 7 by replacing entire text

7. A private exchange server comprised of a first information transfer protocol system with a first user, a second information transfer protocol system with a second user, and a state dependent information transfer protocol with state dependent information messages

where each information transfer protocol system consists of:

- finite state machine describing behavior of the state dependent information transfer protocol
- information storage
- storage of the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol
- user display and information entry

such that the information transfer protocol system, based on the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol and next possible states based on the finite state machine and contents of the information storage:

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cont
- requests from the user, using the user display, the information to modify information in a receiving information transfer protocol system
 - accepts from the user, using the information entry, the modifying information
 - creates a state dependent message using the modifying information and transfers the state dependent message to the receiving information transfer protocol system
 - using the modifying information and the finite state machine, updates the state of the state dependent transfer and updates the information storage

wherein the first user modifies information in the first information transfer protocol system and based on the modification, the information transfer protocol modifies information in the second information transfer protocol system for use by the second user.

Add Claim 12

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12. The private exchange server of claim 7 where each information transfer protocol system further consists of a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining modifying information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the state dependent information transfer protocol, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if an automated response is to be sent and if so determined,

- creates using the information from the information storage, the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol, and the rule storage, a state dependent information transfer message
- sends the state dependent message to the receiving information transfer protocol system.
- updates the information storage and the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol;

Add Claim 13

13. The private exchange server of claim 7 and an enterprise system where both are connected by a network and where each information transfer protocol system further consists of a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining modifying information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the state dependent information transfer protocol, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if an enterprise message is to be sent and if so determined,

- creates using the information from the information storage, the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol, and the rule storage, an enterprise message
- sends the enterprise message to the enterprise system.
- updates the information storage and the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol

Add Claim 14

14. The private exchange server of claim 7 and an enterprise system where both are connected by a network and where each information transfer protocol system further consists of a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining modifying information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the state dependent information transfer protocol, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if the modifying information is in an enterprise message and if so determined,

- receives the enterprise message with the modifying information
- creates using the modifying information, information from the information storage, the state of the state dependent transfer, and the rule storage, a state dependent information transfer message
- sends the state dependent information transfer message to the receiving information transfer protocol system.

- updates the information storage and the state of the state dependent information transfer protocol;

Add Claim 15

15. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1 and an enterprise system where both are connected by a network and each information transfer protocol system further comprising a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining the information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the process, the first state dependent business information transfer message, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if the modifying information is in an enterprise message and if so determined,

- receives the enterprise message;
- creates using the information from the information storage, the first state dependent transfer message, the rule storage, and the enterprise systems message, a second state dependent information transfer message
- sends the second state dependent information transfer message to the network and,
- updates the information storage and the process state;
- completes the operation on the first state dependent information transfer message.

Add Claim 16.

16. The private exchange server of claim 7, wherein the private exchange server capabilities are provided as a propagated signal on a network, such as the Internet, to a system providing a user interface, such as a Web browser.

Add Claim 17.

17. A closed loop business process exchange consisting of a first business process system with a first user, a second business process system with a second user, an information transfer protocol supporting a closed loop state dependent process using state dependent messages where each business process system consists of:

- storage of the state of the closed loop process
- finite state model of the behavior of the closed loop process
- information storage
- user display and information entry

where the business process system determines from the state of the closed loop process, the possible states from the finite state model, and the information storage if the closed loop process is complete and if not complete:

- determines the information required from the user for the next states of the process
- accepts from the user the required information
- creates a state dependent message using the information
- sends the message to the receiving business process system
- updates the state of the closed loop business process and the information storage

wherein the first user using the first business process system initiates the closed loop business process with the second business process system with the second user, the second user responds using the second business process system to the first business process system with the first user, and the closed loop business process loops between the first user and the second user until the closed loop business process completes.

Add Claim 18.

18. The closed loop business process exchange of Claim 17, a third business process system with a third user, where the closed loop business process exchange and the third business process system are connected by a

network that supports the information transfer protocol wherein the first user using the first business process system initiates the closed loop business process with the third business process system with the third user, the third user responds using the third business process system to the first business process system with the first user, and the closed loop business process loops between the first user and the third user until the closed loop business process completes.


Add Claim 19

19. The closed loop business process exchange of Claim 17 and an enterprise system where both are connected by a network where the first business process system further consists of a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining modifying information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the state dependent transfer, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if an enterprise message is to be sent and if so determined,

- creates using the information from the information storage, the state of the closed loop business process, and the rule storage, an enterprise message
- sends the enterprise message to the enterprise system.
- updates the state of the closed loop business process and the information storage

Add Claim 20

20. The closed loop business process exchange of Claim 17 and an enterprise system where both are connected by a network where the first business process system further consists of a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining modifying information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the state dependent transfer, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if the information is in an enterprise message and if so determined,

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- creates using the information from the information storage, the state of the closed loop business process, the rule storage, and the enterprise message, a state dependent message
 - sends the state dependent message to the second business process system.
 - updates the state of the closed loop business process and the information storage
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Respectfully Submitted



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